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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1.-54. (canceled)

55. (currently amended) An electric storage battery comprising:

a an case hermetically sealed by a first end cap and a second end cap, wherein the said case excludes fill holes and wherein the first end cap excludes fill holes and the second end cap excludes fill holes;

an electrically conductive terminal pin extending through the said first end cap and electrically insulated from the said case;

an electrode assembly disposed within the said case, the electrode assembly includes an electrode in electrical communication with the pin and an electrode electrically insulated from the pin; and

a flexible conductive tab providing electrical communication between the second end cap and the electrode that is electrically insulated from the pin.

56.-65. (canceled)

66. (previously presented) The battery of claim 55, wherein the tab extends from a first location adjacent to the case past a center point of the second end cap to a second location where the tab is electrically connected to the second end cap.

67. (previously presented) The battery of claim 66, wherein a weld connects a flat portion of the tab to an inner face of the second end cap.

68. (previously presented) The battery of claim 66, wherein the tab is not connected to the second end cap continuously over a distance extending from the first location to the second location.

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69. (previously presented) The battery of claim 66, wherein the portion of the second end cap adjacent to the tab has a radius and the tab is positioned adjacent to the second end cap without being connected to the second end cap for a distance that is longer than the radius.

70. (previously presented) The battery of claim 55, wherein the electrodes are electrode strips wound around the pin so as to form a spiral role on the pin.

71. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the spiral role includes at least one separator separating the electrodes.

72. (previously presented) The battery of claim 70, wherein the electrode assembly includes a mandrel mounted on the pin such that the electrodes are wound around the pin and the mandrel.

73. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel includes a longitudinal slot; and wherein

the electrode in electrical communication with the pin extends through the mandrel slot.

74. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel has a channel through which electrolyte can be injected.

75. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein a portion of the electrode in electrical communication with the pin is positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

76. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the electrode in electrical communication with the pin includes active material positioned on a substrate, the substrate being positioned between the mandrel and the pin without the active material being positioned between the mandrel and the pin.

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77. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel is crimped to the pin.

78. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein a weld attaches the mandrel to the pin.

79. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel includes titanium or an alloy of titanium.

80. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.

81. (previously presented) The battery of claim 80, wherein the pin is positioned in an interior of the tube.

82. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.

83. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel is fitted around the pin such that the electrodes are wound around the pin and the mandrel.

84. (previously presented) The battery of claim 72, wherein the mandrel is a reinforcing mandrel.

85. (previously presented) The battery of claim 55, wherein at least one weld directly connects the electrode that is in electrical communication with the pin to the pin.

86. (previously presented) The battery of claim 55, wherein the pin includes an alloy of PtIr.

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87. (previously presented) The battery of claim 55, wherein the first end cap includes

an electrical insulator,
the pin extends through the electrical insulator, and
the pin is hermetically sealed to the electrical insulator.

88. (previously presented) The battery of claim 55, wherein the case is electrically conducting.